The COMMITTEE, appointed to conſider the Legiſlative Proviſions already exiſting for Support of the Aged and Infirm POOR of IRELAND, and for the Puniſhment of Vagrants, and of the Neceſſity of reviſing and amending the Statutes relating thereto, and alſo of making Proviſion for the Care of LUNATICS and IDIOTS by Grand Jury Preſentments; and to report the ſame, with their Obſervations and Opinion thereupon, to the Houſe;—

HAVE, purſuant to the Order of the Houſe, examined the Matters to them referred; And,

HAVING peruſed and conſidered the ſeveral Statutes, and examined into ſuch other Evidence relating thereto as was at the preſent Period laid before them, Have come to the following Reſolutions:

Reſolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the Adoption of a general Syſtem of Proviſion for the Poor of *Ireland*, by way of Pariſh Rate, as in *England*, or in any ſimilar Manner, would be highly injurious to the Country, and would not produce any real or permanent Advantage, even to the lower Claſſes of People who muſt be the Objects of ſuch Support.

Reſolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the ſeveral Acts paſſed in the Parliament of *Ireland*, and particularly that of the 11th and 12th of His preſent Majeſty, directing the Eſtabliſhment of a Houſe of Induſtry in every County, County of a City,

1803-4 (109.) iv, 771

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

a City, and County of a Town, have not been complied with, nor any Preſentment made by the ſeveral Grand Juries to aſſiſt in the Support of ſuch Eſtabliſhments for the Relief of Aged and Infirm Poor, and the Puniſhment of Vagrants and Sturdy Beggars, except in the Counties of *Cork*, *Waterford*, *Limerick*, and *Clare*, and in the Cities of *Cork*, *Waterford*, and *Limerick*; but that the Houſe of Induſtry of *Dublin*, is ſupported at the Public Charge, and is open to the Admiſſion of the Poor of the ſeveral Parts of *Ireland*, which may have induced the Counties and Cities that have not carried into Effect the Eſtabliſhment of ſeparate Houſes of Induſtry to conſider the Houſe of Induſtry of *Dublin* ſo regulated and provided for as a ſufficient Contribution on their Part, and precluding the Neceſſity of their making farther Proviſion for their Poor.

Reſolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the Act of the 5th of His preſent Majeſty, and other Acts directing the Eſtabliſhment of Infirmaries, or County Hoſpitals, and granting a certain Allowance from the Treaſury by way of Salary to the Surgeon or Phyſician attending thereon, have been carried into Effect in almoſt all the Counties of *Ireland*.

Reſolved,

THAT, ſo far as at preſent appears to this Committee, The Proviſions of the Act of the 27th of His preſent Majeſty, Cap. 39, empowering Grand Juries to preſent the Sums neceſſary for Support of a Ward for Idiots and Inſane Perſons, have not been complied with.

Reſolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That in the Houſe of Induſtry of *Dublin* Proviſion is made for the Support of upwards of One Hundred and Eighteen Idiots and Lunatics; in the Houſe of Induſtry of *Cork* for Ninety; in that of *Waterford* for Twenty-five; and in that of *Limerick* for Paupers ſo afflicted.

Reſolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the Demand for Admiſſion of Lunatics and Idiots into all theſe Places, greatly

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

greatly exceeds the Accommodation or Funds appointed for their Support; and that it does not appear that any Inſtitution, maintained in any degree at the Public Expence, exiſts in any other Parts of *Ireland* for their Reception.

Reſolved,

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Attention and Care neceſſary to the effectual Relief of theſe diſtreſſed Objects cannot be efficaciouſly extended to them whilſt they are connected with Inſtitutions of a very different Nature, and at the ſame Time muſt in a great degree break in upon and derange the orderly Regulation of thoſe Inſtitutions.

Reſolved,

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Eſtabliſhment of Four Aſylums for Idiots and Lunatics, One in each of the Provinces of *Ireland*, (including that of *Dublin*) placed in as central a Situation as poſſible, to be erected and maintained in ſuch Manner as may hereafter be deemed adviſable, either by Grand Jury Preſeutments, or otherwiſe, would be a Meaſure highly beneficial.

Reſolved,

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Conſideration of the important Objects referred to their Examination requires more mature Diſcuſſion than the preſent advanced Period of the Seſſion of Parliament would allow, and further Information than they can at preſent attain, to enable them to form a correct Judgment thereon; and that they do therefore recommend to the Houſe, That the further Inveſtigation of this Subject be reſumed at an early Period of the enſuing Seſſion, as an Object having ſtrong Claims on the Attention of the Legiſlature.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

REPORT

FROM

Committee respecting the Poor of Ireland.

Ordered to be printed 1st June 1804.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit